

Appln. No. 10/037,942
Request for Continued Examination with Amendment dated November 14, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 26, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Pursuant to 37 USC section 1.114, Applicant respectfully requests continued examination of the present Application. The present amendment serves as the required submission. Please charge the necessary fee to account 04-1512.

Claims 1-12 and 15-22 are pending.

Amendment to Claim 1 introduces a requirement that a panel domain along an edge of the panel extend from a primary face to an opposing face at that edge. Each figure and the text on page 5, lines 33-34 (*i.e.*, "Desirably, a band also extends the thickness of the panel.") in combination with the definition of "thickness" on page 4, lines 33-34 provide support for the amendment from the specification as originally filed.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of 26 August 2003 and believes the claims prior to the present amendment are allowable. Applicant thanks the Examiner for providing evidence of an alternative meaning to "through" in the Advisory Action of 6 November 2003. Applicant, however, asserts that the Examiner has not explained how a skilled artisan could interpret the use of "through" in the previously amended claim to mean anything but extending from a primary surface to an opposing surface using the text from page 5, lines 33-34. Applicant relied on teaching on page 5, lines 33-34 of the specification (*i.e.*, "Desirably, a band also extends the thickness of the panel.") to amend Claim 1 to require a panel domain to "extent through the thickness of the panel" (*see*, Applicant's response of June 11, 2003, page 1, paragraph 2). Applicant believes that "Desirably, a band also extends the thickness of the panel." can only mean extending from a primary face to an opposing face.

The Examiner's arguments in the Advisory Action both miss-quote the cited section from page 5 and then focus on teachings in lines other than lines 33-34 (*i.e.*, teachings about extending the length of the panel). Teachings about the length are not on lines 33-34 of page 5 and were not relied on for the amendment regarding extending through the thickness of the panel. Furthermore, there is no usage of the word "through" on page 5, lines 33-34. Therefore, Applicant still fails to see how the

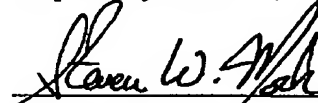
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Examiner can justify a definition for "extending through the thickness of the panel," which draws support from the phrase "extends the thickness of the panel," to mean anything other than extending the full thickness of the panel.

Nonetheless, in the interest of facilitating prosecution and avoiding appeal, Applicant makes their meaning more clear with the present amendment.

For the reasons set forth in Applicant's response dated June 11, 2003, Applicant believes Claims 1-12 and 15-22 of the present Application are allowable over the cited art. Applicant respectfully requests a notice of allowance for said claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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